

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 31-33, 35, 36, 39, and 40 are amended herein. Claims 4, 5, 14, 18-20, 23-25, and 42-44 are canceled herein without prejudice. New claims 45 and 46 are added. Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and allowance of the application as amended.

Petition for extension of time

A petition for a three month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) is included herewith, as well as the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.117(a)(3).

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Applicants submit that the drawings currently show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicants respectfully direct the examiner to the following figures and the corresponding description as support for the plurality of independently located microphones: Figure 1, element 10; Figure 2, elements 102 and 103; Figure 3, elements MIC 1 and MIC 2; Figure 4, elements MIC 1 and MIC 2. Applicants respectfully direct the examiner to the following figures and the corresponding description as support for detecting an absence of voiced information: Figure 2, element 204; Figure 5, element 506; Figure 8, element 816. Consequently, as the drawings currently show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, Applicants request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Objections

Claim 23 is objected to because of an informality. Claim 23 is canceled herein without prejudice, and Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments presented herein overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Holzrichter (U.S. patent number 5,729,694, hereinafter “Holzrichter”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments presented herein overcome the rejection of claims 1-25 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holzrichter (U.S. patent number 5,729,694, hereinafter “Holzrichter”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments presented herein overcome the rejection of claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holzrichter (U.S. patent number 5,729,694, hereinafter “Holzrichter”), in view of Sugiyama (U.S. patent number 5,517,435, hereinafter “Sugiyama”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

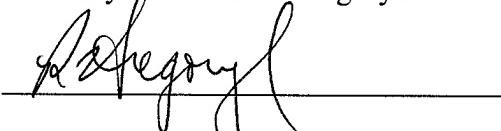
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that any objections and rejections have been overcome, and the claims are now allowable. Prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited. Examiner Lao is respectfully requested telephone the undersigned to facilitate resolution of any issues prior to allowance of the application.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

If there are any fees due and unpaid in this application, please charge our Deposit Account No. 503616 for these fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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